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03/07/2012 Minutes

MEETING MINUTES -
 Open Space Committee
 Approved May 2, 2012

Meeting Date: March 7, 2012

Prepared by: Joey Glushko

Present: Ann LeRoyer, Chair; David White, Joey Glushko, Patsy Kraemer, Lisa Decker

Absent: Leslie Mayer, Michele Hassler, Teresa DeBenedictis, Elizabeth Karpati

General

- February meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Downing Square

- David White and Ann LeRoyer commented on these plan developments; Lisa Decker, working with the TAC on this project had no additional information. Lisa will keep the OSC informed on the progress of the project.

Mill Brook Linear Park Planning

- Joey Glushko approached Planning Dir. Carol Kowalski regarding how the Committee could best proceed regarding Mill Brook planning initiatives. Ideas that were distributed were discussed; they will be looked at further. Joey will discuss with Adam Kurowski, GIS co-ordinator, about how to use the inventory information we have to better use and display.
- Patsy Kraemer alerted us that The Old Schwamb Mill (OSM) might be a consideration for a joint effort – to look at landscaping associated with the Mill Brook bank. Members of the Garden Club and Tree Committee are in discussion with OSM to see what might be possible. A public/private/volunteer opportunity may be in the offing.

Town Master Planning Process

- Joey reported that the Census Insert Survey response collection will end next week (March 16); over 4100 responses have been received thus far. The Planning Dept. intends to have a presence at the school redistricting meetings to collect names of interested parties to the upcoming (probably fall) planning forums. The Department will have a table for Town Day in September.

Open Space Plan

- It was recommended that we start thinking about the updates for the OSRP, which should be compiled during 2013-2014.

Updating the 'Walking the Open Spaces of Arlington' Booklet

- David White and Ann LeRoyer are actively working with a subcommittee of the Conservation Comm. Michelle Durocher of the Cons. Comm. and Adam Kurowski of the IT (GIS) Dept. are developing format for map presentations with informative content for selected individual locations, as well "regional view" maps (perhaps dividing the Town into seven regions) with selected highlights and informative content. On-line availability and QR access, as well as the "book" format are under discussion.

Miscellaneous Project Reports

- Busa Farm – The Lexington Board of Selectmen continue to discuss the land use(s) for the Busa Farm area at their meetings; at this time, some affordable housing and community farm use have strong support; else, no new information to report.
- Reservoir and Habitat Garden – David White reports that the Reservoir Committee is developing their plans for spring efforts; among the considerations is fencing.
- Mystic River Watershed Association Rain Garden Committee Meeting – Joey Glushko reported that more than a dozen possible sites were submitted; the organizing committee visited the sites and narrowed the listing to about 3-5 strong possibilities; these were further evaluated by MyRWA and the Town Engineering Division. An early spring meeting will evaluate and make a selection – date TBA.
- Symmes open space planning - The OSC discussed the various open space components that are part of the new Symmes plan. Brian Rehrig (of the Arlington Land Trust) is working with the ARB and the Conservation Commission's Nathaniel Stevens to ensure that

all conservation restrictions are in place for the new agreement. The total restricted land acreage will increase in the new plan. These discussions remain on-going.

- Ann LeRoyer announced that the Vision 2020 warrant article, requesting \$50,000 for the Water Bodies Fund, received unanimous endorsement from the Finance Committee.
- Patsy Kraemer announced that the Garden Club would be organizing the gardening on street islands program.
- ECOFEST 2012 – will be taking place on March 31, 10am-2pm in the Town Hall Auditorium. The theme is “Locavoracious...about Food” - it is meant to be a celebration and educational event.
- Arlington Catholic Practice Field (Summer St.) – before the Conservation Commission is a permit request to surface this field with artificial surface; landscaping issues and impacts to the neighborhood were discussed. Applicants are working, respectful of access to Buzzell Field and Cooke’s Hollow planning as well as the residential abutters needs, to address watdrainage issues.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Next Open Space Committee Meetings: April 4, May 2, June 6
Meetings are in the Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room